



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

June 17, 2020

Governor Tony Evers
P.O. Box 7863
Madison, WI 53707
Hand Delivered

Dear Governor Evers,

It has come to our attention that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has temporarily suspended all in-person recreational safety classes, including Boating, Snowmobile, ATV, Hunting, Internet Field Days and Bowhunting courses. This is alarming news to the millions of sportsmen across our state and would be incredibly detrimental to participation in our outdoor recreational activities at a time when our citizens, visitors and tourism industry need it the most. In fact, the Department of Tourism says outdoor recreation was the top marketable driver of visits to Wisconsin in 2019.

When the DNR officials responded to a representative about this concern, they stated, "The Department of Natural Resources places a high priority on the safety education programs offered to Wisconsinites." It is great to see this is something we can all agree on.

If your administration agrees that these programs are a high priority, why have you ordered these courses to be suspended for the foreseeable future? We are reaching out in an earnest attempt to see what your reasoning is for this decision. It would appear, by all measures of your Badger Bounce Back program, there should be no problem with these classes occurring.

As part of your Badger Bounce Back program, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) was asked to create guidelines for re-opening the state. According to the recommendations regarding "Outdoor Gatherings", which includes outdoor educational programming, these instructional courses could resume with a maximum of 50 participants. Are your agencies following the same guidelines that you've asked Wisconsinites to follow, or do they have the privilege of playing by a different set of rules?

No one is arguing that caution should be thrown to the wind as we all work together to responsibly re-open. We are simply pointing out it is becoming impossible to comprehend what rules everyone needs to play by. The DNR is following the lead of the Department of Health Services (DHS), who is waiting on the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to come out with guidelines for in-person pupil instruction. Should the DNR not instead be working with local governments on outdoor recreation class guidelines?

Unfortunately, your administration continues to operate under the Public Health Emergency you declared in [Executive Order #72](#). As I'm sure you are aware, the Wisconsin Supreme Court struck down your [Executive](#)

[Order #28](#), which declared bureaucratic overreach by your administration. As supporters of local control, we would encourage you to follow the court's ruling and continue to operate under the advisement of local officials, who we believe can make the best decisions for their region.

We are asking that your administration allows for these in-person safety classes to resume immediately. Business owners around Wisconsin have made adjustments to safely re-open and operate their businesses; we have full confidence that our local instructors can institute the necessary safety precautions to allow for these courses to proceed.

Last week, you encouraged Wisconsinites to "go outside and exercise your rights." We agree with that message and look forward to working with your administration to resolve this situation. Thank you for taking the time to consider our request on behalf of sportsmen, the tourism industry and Wisconsinites across the state.

Respectfully,



Representative Rob Swearingen
34th Assembly District



Senator Devin LeMahieu
9th Senate District



Representative Mary Felzkowski
35th Assembly District



Senator Chris Kapenga
33rd Senate District



Representative Robin Vos
63rd Assembly District



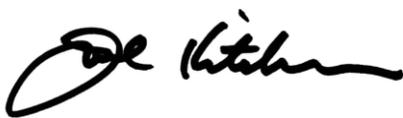
Senator Daniel Feyen
18th Senate District



Representative Warren Petryk
93rd Assembly District



Senator Andre Jacque
1st Senate District



Representative Joel Kitchens
1st Assembly District



Senator Howard Marklein
17th Senate District



Representative Gae Magnafici
28th Assembly District



Representative Rick Gundrum
58th Assembly District



Representative Treig Pronschinske
92nd Assembly District



Representative Janel Brandtjen
22nd Assembly District



Representative Romaine Quinn
75th Assembly District



Representative Tyler August
32nd Assembly District



Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt
52nd Assembly District



Representative Cindi Duchow
99th Assembly District



Senator Wanggaard
21st Senate District



Senator Stephen Nass
11th Senate District



Representative Mike Rohrkaste
55th Assembly District



Representative Bob Kulp
69th Assembly District



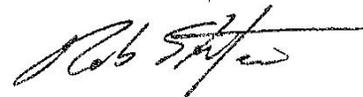
Representative Rob Summerfield
67th Assembly District



Representative Timothy Ramthun
59th Assembly District



Representative John Spiros
86th Assembly District



Representative Rob Stafsholt
29th Assembly District



Representative Chuck Wichgers
83rd Assembly District



Representative Jesse James
68th Assembly District



Representative Mike Kuglitsch
84th Assembly District



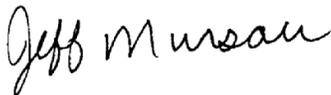
Representative Adam Neylon
98th Assembly District



Representative Barbara Dittrich
38th Assembly District



Representative Scott Allen
97th Assembly District



Representative Jeff Mursau
36th Assembly District



Representative Tony Kurtz
50th Assembly District



Representative Cody Horlacher
33rd Assembly District



Representative Jon Plumer
42nd Assembly District



Representative Paul Tittel
25th Assembly District



Representative Joan Ballweg
41st Assembly District



Representative Joe Sanfelippo
15th Assembly District



Representative Dan Knodl
24th Assembly District

cc: Preston D. Cole
Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources